



Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JANUARY 2003

Natural soda ash production in January was 867,000 metric tons, 10% lower than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 278,000 tons, 25% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in January was 1.47 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in December was 527,000 tons, 5% lower than the December 2001 level of 556,000 tons. Exports and imports of soda ash in December 2002 were 416,000 tons and 384 tons, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through December 2002, compared with those of 2001, were as follows: production was 2% higher, imports 73% lower, exports 3% higher, ending stocks 2% lower, and apparent consumption 1% lower.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production 2/	Ending stocks	
2001:			
December	870	226	1,420
Year total	10,300	XX	15,400
2002:			
January	856	262	1,430
February	775	245	1,210
March	885	244	1,370
April	829	202	1,300
May	917	212	1,330
June	842	236	1,130
July	898	227	956
August	895	226	1,260
September	853	228	1,260
October	870	213	1,150
November	877	201	1,310
December	963	222	1,460
Total	10,500	XX	15,100
2003:			
January	867	278	1,470

XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production data includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors only.

Soda ash equivalent from mine water is not included. Soda liquors are withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 2
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN DECEMBER 2002 1/ 2/

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value 3/ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	73,300	\$8,050	\$110
Brazil	68,900	10,300	149
China	49,000	3,940	80
Canada	37,900	2,940	77
Taiwan	33,800	3,770	112
Japan	29,500	3,310	113
Chile	28,400	4,150	146
Korea, Republic of	18,400	2,010	109
Saudi Arabia	14,000	1,160	83
Belgium	13,200	2,690	203
Other	49,600	5,800	117
Total	416,000	48,100	116

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ January 2003 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2002 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total	% of total
Argentina	8,760	--	9,270	27,500	14,400	13,000	9,980	--	10,900	11,100	10,800	12,700	128,000	3
Australia	7,020	7,010	9,660	13,200	7,040	--	7,010	--	19,500	--	14,000	--	84,500	2
Belgium	25,000	--	--	35,300	25,000	--	--	10,800	17,100	--	--	13,200	126,000	3
Brazil	25,800	--	25,800	10,000	52,600	--	32,900	--	26,200	7,000	53,800	68,900	303,000	7
Canada	42,700	31,700	42,500	38,000	32,600	40,200	42,400	38,900	37,300	39,000	37,700	37,900	461,000	11
Chile	--	20,800	--	19,600	28,500	24,500	--	--	24,000	25,500	--	28,400	171,000	4
China	10,500	6,500	25,000	17,300	9,500	55,100	33,000	35,000	11,800	39,500	14,000	49,000	306,000	7
Colombia	--	11,700	11,500	10,800	10,800	--	12,100	--	11,000	4,890	10,900	--	83,800	2
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	3,000	3,000	--	--	3,000	3,000	--	2,000	14,000	(3/)
Ecuador	--	--	4,370	--	--	--	6,500	--	--	--	--	--	10,900	(3/)
Finland	--	17	--	--	--	--	--	17	--	--	--	--	34	(3/)
France	--	7,500	10,000	--	10,000	--	7,550	11,500	--	--	--	10,000	56,600	1
Germany	19	--	--	19	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	38	(3/)
Guatemala	--	--	--	5,000	3,500	3,000	--	--	5,500	--	--	--	17,000	(3/)
Indonesia	21,500	19,000	19,000	23,000	19,000	16,500	--	14,900	19,000	--	70,500	7,500	230,000	5
Italy	--	--	--	10,100	--	--	--	--	--	8,680	--	--	18,700	(3/)
Japan	46,800	58,100	32,300	33,600	20,600	27,600	50,500	27,600	18,500	47,900	38,300	29,500	431,000	10
Korea, Republic of	14,000	19,200	12,500	15,200	14,600	14,300	18,600	20,200	21,100	21,200	17,100	18,400	206,000	5
Malaysia	--	5,000	19,900	--	16,000	4,000	13,500	4,970	12,000	--	31,500	--	107,000	3
Mexico	56,900	39,800	37,300	27,500	50,000	61,200	66,800	39,400	79,100	52,000	53,300	73,300	637,000	15
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	58	--	58	(3/)
New Zealand	--	4,970	--	--	7,520	--	--	--	--	--	--	7,500	20,000	(3/)
Nigeria	--	3,890	--	--	--	--	--	2,920	--	--	--	--	6,810	(3/)
Panama	--	--	--	1,990	20	--	2,000	--	--	--	1,900	--	5,910	(3/)
Peru	--	2,300	--	2,000	3,500	2,000	--	--	2,700	--	--	1,980	14,500	(3/)
Philippines	8,700	--	9,000	9,000	--	7,200	10,000	--	10,200	--	7,800	--	61,900	1
Portugal	8,280	--	--	--	--	7,460	--	--	--	--	1,080	--	16,800	(3/)
Russia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	697	697	(3/)
Saudi Arabia	--	14,000	14,000	12,000	12,000	10,000	--	12,000	--	18,000	--	14,000	106,000	3
South Africa	--	--	--	--	6,070	6,070	--	6,560	6,500	--	6,560	--	31,800	1
Spain	5,000	14,100	--	--	--	--	11,900	8,000	--	--	--	--	39,000	1
Taiwan	20,000	10,000	10,500	10,200	17,000	13,200	14,000	12,000	15,500	12,400	--	33,800	169,000	4
Thailand	11,100	10,200	10,000	11,300	11,200	11,200	10,900	31,500	11,500	--	26,100	--	145,000	3
Trinidad and Tobago	2,820	--	--	--	--	2,800	--	2,800	--	--	2,820	--	11,200	(3/)
United Arab Emirates	--	--	7,000	4,000	--	7,000	--	7,000	--	--	--	7,000	32,000	1
United Kingdom	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	253	256	(3/)
Venezuela	17,100	--	26,100	19,900	9,830	--	14,800	19,500	--	30,200	22,900	--	160,000	4
Vietnam	--	--	7,000	--	--	--	--	--	8,000	--	--	--	15,000	(3/)
Total	332,000	286,000	343,000	357,000	384,000	329,000	364,000	306,000	370,000	320,000	421,000	416,000	4,230,000	100

-- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ January 2003 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH 1/ 2/

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value 3/ (thousands)
2001:		
December	474	\$82
Year total	33,400	4,060
2002:		
January	746	130
February	436	128
March	875	177
April	1,110	221
May	991	216
June	639	118
July	779	181
August	538	152
September	837	202
October	1,020	220
November	666	134
December	384	116
Total	9,020	2,000

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits;
may not add to totals shown.

2/ January 2003 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Customs, insurance, and freight (c.i.f) value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH 1/

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption 2/
				Increase	Decrease	
2001:						
December	870,000	474	250,000	64,000	--	556,000
Year total	10,300,000	33,400	4,090,000	--	18,400	6,300,000
2002:						
January	856,000	746	332,000	35,300	--	490,000
February	775,000	436	286,000	--	16,900	507,000
March	885,000	875	343,000	--	1,010	544,000
April	829,000	1,110	357,000	--	41,300	515,000
May	917,000	991	384,000	9,800	--	524,000
June	842,000	639	329,000	23,600	--	489,000
July	898,000	779	364,000	--	8,580	543,000
August	895,000	538	306,000	--	1,610	592,000
September	853,000	837	370,000	2,410	--	481,000
October	870,000	1,020	320,000	--	14,700	565,000
November	877,000	666	421,000	--	12,100	469,000
December	963,000	384	416,000	20,400	--	527,000
Total	10,500,000	9,020	4,230,000	--	4,620	6,250,000
2003:						
January	867,000	NA	NA	56,700	--	NA

NA Not available. -- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.